

Carson National Forest

***208 Cruz Alta Road
Taos, NM 87571
505-758-6200***



News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ignacio Peralta
(505) 758-6344
Dorotea Martinez
(505) 758-6345

JICARILLA RANGER DISTRICT TO ENACT STAGE II FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Taos, New Mexico, June 16, 2006 – Recent increased fire activity on the Jicarilla Ranger District has prompted Carson National Forest Fire Managers to step up fire restrictions on the district to Stage II. The Carson National Forest has been at Stage II Fire Restrictions since May 1, 2006 with the exception of the Jicarilla Ranger District which remained at Stage I.

Stage II Fire Restrictions prohibit all open fires, smoking, operating a chainsaw, fireworks or other explosives, welding, combustion engines without spark arresters and driving off of developed forest roads.

As the Southwest Area has advanced to Preparedness Level 4, the Carson will continue to closely monitor conditions and prepare for the possibility of going into Stage III Partial Closures. Preparedness Level 4 is an indication that the area is beginning to experience large fires over 100 acres that may have the potential to exhaust Southwest Area and National resources.

Hazy skies earlier this week were the result of fires in Arizona and fires on the Gila National Forest in Southern New Mexico.

There have been red flag warning across most of North Central New Mexico for strong winds and critically low humidities and as these conditions persist, we urge all forest visitors to continue to be careful and follow all fire restrictions.

For current fire restriction information, please call 1-877-864-6985 or visit our website at www.fs.fed.us/r3/carson. For fire restrictions and other fire information for all recreation sites in New Mexico, log on to www.nmfireinfo.com.

XXX